AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended): A substantially anhydrous, free-flowing composition suitable as a component for preparing a conditioning hair lightener emulsion comprising:

an effective hair conditioning amount of a water-dispersible, self-emulsifying, fatty acid-derived conditioner;

an effective hair lightening amount of at least one peroxy salt compound;

optionally, an effective hair protective amount of a hair protectant, deswelling agent; and

optionally, a water-soluble or water-dispersible cosmetic adjuvant;

wherein the composition is maintained as a substantially anhydrous, substantially free-flowing component until ~~free-flowing, and upon~~ being mixed with a separately prepared component comprising an aqueous ~~medium for use as~~ medium, and wherein, upon being so mixed, ~~a hair lightener~~ substantially immediately forms ~~an~~ a conditioning hair lightener emulsion.

2. (Currently amended): The composition of claim 1 wherein the self-emulsifying, fatty acid-derived conditioner comprises a fatty ester, an ethoxylated glyceride, a fatty alcohol, a fatty ether, and any combination thereof, and any formulation thereof optionally containing at least one hydrophilic surfactant.

3. (Currently amended): The composition of claim 1 ~~or 2~~ wherein the self-emulsifying, fatty acid-derived conditioner comprises at least one polyhydric ester selected from the group consisting of a C_3-C_4 polyol ester of a C_6-C_{22} fatty acid; a glyceryl ester of a C_6-C_{22} fatty acid and at least one acid selected from the group consisting of citric acid, lactic acid and succinic acid; and a polyethoxylated C_{12}-C_{18} acylated sorbitol ester.

4. (Currently amended): The composition of ~~any one of claims 1 through 3~~ claim 1 wherein the self-emulsifying, fatty acid-derived conditioner comprises predominantly a C_8-C_{10} fatty acid ester of a polyol selected from the group consisting of glycerin, propylene glycol, butylene glycol and mixtures thereof.

Claims 5-7. (Canceled).

8. (Currently amended): The composition of ~~any one of claims 1 through 7~~ claim 1 wherein the self-emulsifying, fatty acid-derived conditioner comprises a ~~combination of~~

caprylic/capric triglyceride, a glyceryl cocoate/citrate/lactate, ~~and~~ a PEG-40 sorbitan peroleate or a combination of two or more of the foregoing.

9. (Currently amended): The composition of ~~any one of claims 1 through 8~~ claim 1 wherein the peroxy salt is selected from the group consisting of an alkali metal persulfate, ammonium persulfate, and mixtures thereof.

10. (Currently amended): The composition of ~~any one of claims 1 through 9~~ claim 1 wherein the composition comprises a hair protectant, deswelling agent selected from the group consisting of a polyol and a cationic polymer.

11. (Original): The composition of claim 10 wherein the polyol is a carbohydrate.

12. (Original): The composition of claim 11 wherein the carbohydrate is a starch hydrolysate.

13 (Original): The composition of claim 12 wherein the starch hydrolysate is a maltodextrin.

14. (Currently amended): The composition of ~~any one of claims 1 through 13~~ claim 1 containing a cosmetic adjuvant comprising a cationic polymer as an auxiliary hair conditioning agent.

15. (Original): The composition of claim 14 wherein the cationic polymer is polyquaternium-6.

16. (Currently amended): A conditioning hair lightener emulsion prepared from at least two separate components, (A) and (B), wherein Component (A) is a substantially anhydrous, free-flowing composition of ~~any one of claims 1 through 15~~ claim 1 and Component (B) comprises an aqueous medium containing an effective hair lightening amount of hydrogen peroxide or source thereof, and wherein the hair lightener emulsion has a pH of at least about 8.

17. (Original): The conditioning hair lightener emulsion of claim 16 wherein a hair protectant, deswelling agent is present in at least one of Component (A) and (B).

18. (Currently amended): A method of lightening hair comprising the steps of:

(I) contacting substantially dry hair with the conditioning hair lightener emulsion of ~~any one of claims 16 or 17~~ claim 16 and distributing the composition therethrough,

(ii) maintaining the applied conditioning hair lightener emulsion in contact with the hair for a period sufficient to visibly lighten the color of the hair to a desired shade level, to provide lightened hair, optionally contacting the so-lightened hair with an aqueous acidic medium having a pH of not more than about 5, and

(iii) removing the hair lightener emulsion from the lightened hair.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18 wherein step (iii) is performed by rinsing the hair with water.

Claim 20. (Canceled).

21. (Currently amended): The method of claim ~~20~~ 18 wherein the post-lightening aqueous acidic medium, when employed, contains a cationic polymer.

22. (Currently amended): The method of ~~any one of claims 18 through 21~~ claim 18 wherein the lightened hair is contacted with a post-lightening cationic conditioner after step (iii) and the post-lightening cationic conditioner is removed from the conditioned, lightened hair with water.

23. (Currently amended): The method of ~~any one of claims 18 through 22~~ claim 18 further including the step (iv) of washing the lightened hair with a shampoo having a pH in the range of about 4 to about 6.

24. (Currently amended): A conditioning hair lightener system comprising at least two components, Component (A) and Component (B), wherein:

Component (A) is a composition of ~~any one of claims 1 through 15,~~ claim 1 and

Component (B) is an aqueous medium containing hydrogen peroxide or hydrogen peroxide source,

wherein Component (A) and Component (B) are maintained separate, and substantially immediately before use, Component (A) and Component (B) are mixed together to provide a conditioning hair lightening emulsion having a pH of at least about 8.

25. (Currently amended): The conditioning hair lightener system of claim 24 further including a separate component comprising a post-lightening aqueous acidic medium having a pH of not more than about 5; a post-lightening cationic hair conditioner; a post-lightening shampoo having a pH in the range of about pH 4 to about 6; or combination of two or more of the foregoing.

Claims 26-27. (Canceled).

28. (Currently amended): The conditioning hair lightener system of ~~any one of claims 24 through 27~~ claim 24 wherein Component (A) includes a cationic polymer.

29. (Currently amended): The conditioning hair lightener system of ~~any one of claims 24 through 28~~ claim 24 wherein at least one of Component (A) or Component (B) includes a hair protective, deswelling agent.

30. (Currently amended): The conditioning hair lightener system of ~~any one of claims 24 through 29~~ claim 25 wherein the post-lightening, aqueous acidic medium, when present, includes a nonionic polymer, a cationic polymer or combination thereof.

31. (Currently amended): An article of manufacture comprising a kit containing at least one composition of ~~any one of claims 1 through 15~~ claim 1 in packaged form.

Claim 32. (Canceled).

33. (Currently amended): The article of manufacture of ~~claims 31 or 32~~ claim 31 further including at least one ~~or more of the following~~ separately packaged component selected from the group consisting of:

an aqueous medium containing hydrogen peroxide or hydrogen peroxide source;

a post-lightening aqueous acidic medium having a pH of not more than about 5;

a post-lightening cationic hair conditioner;

a post-lightening shampoo having a pH in the range of about 4 to about 6;

~~each of the foregoing in separately packaged form; and~~

a hair lightening implement; and

instructional indicia.

Claim 34. (Canceled).